

Appl. No. : 10/005,710  
Filed : November 8, 2001

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for ~~diagnosing ongoing pathology or prediction of early pathogenic reaction for~~ indicating presence or possibility of cardiovascular disease in a patient, comprising the steps of:

a) determining a level of antibodies in a saliva sample from said patient, wherein said antibodies are able to bind to an autoantigen or a corresponding recombinant antigen or synthetic peptide ~~for~~ associated with cardiovascular disease ~~in a saliva sample from said patient~~; and

b) comparing the level of antibodies determined in step a) with normal levels of said antibodies in saliva, wherein

normal levels of autoantigen antibodies for cardiovascular disease indicate optimal conditions; and

higher than normal levels of autoantigen antibodies for cardiovascular disease indicate ongoing pathology or prediction of early pathogenic reaction for cardiovascular disease.

2. (Currently amended) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the autoantigen for cardiovascular disease is selected from the group consisting of myosin, oxidized LDL, heat shock protein-60,  $\beta$ -2-glycoprotein-1, platelet glycoprotein, and C1q immune complexes.

3. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein determining the level of antibodies in steps a) and b) is accomplished using an immunoassay.

4. (Original) The method according to Claim 3, wherein the immunoassay is an ELISA test.

5. (Original) The method according to Claim 1, wherein the antibodies in steps a) and b) is measured from saliva.

6. (Original) The method according to Claim 5, wherein the measured antibodies are IgA.